

attend in a *devan* (village council). At the same time, women were not permitted to obtain the 'puanpu' which was a kind of privileged membership in religious matters. With the advent of Christianity, women were liberated from the low status in religion and society. Now they are eligible to get full-membership in the church. They are working as secretaries, chairperson, etc. Women are also organised a body called 'Women's Fellowship' within the Church where many of them are full-time workers and some engaged in different fields. One of the regular practices is 'rice-collection' for fund raising. Thus, the money raised from these are used for the mission work. Christianity provided a better new life and liberated from oppression. Whereas right of inheritance goes to the male line as usually practised.

e) Abolition of intoxicants:

In Pre-Christian society, the use of intoxicants like *zu* (rice-beer) and *kani* (opium) was very widespread in hill tribes community. In Hrangkhoh society, drinking *zu* was closely associated with their traditional religious festivals and lifestyle. After they embraced Christianity, brewing of rice-beer is no longer practised in Christian villages.

The use of *kani*, opium eating was widespread in North East India which began towards the end of 18th century. It was introduced by the British expeditionary force of 1792.¹¹ In early 20th century, the Hrangkhohs spent much times in Haflong Bazar for earning opium.¹² In course of time, the pioneer missionaries like Rev. J. Gerlan Williams and others attempt to stop the opium eating and

¹¹ Frederick S. Downs, *History of Christianity in India*, Vol.V, Part 5, Bangalore, 1992, p.148. Hereafter cited as Downs, *History of Christianity*.

¹² Rev. D. G. Morfyn Jones, "The History of the Church among the Hill Tribes of Cachar," Unpublished, CHT Synod Library, Haflong, 1995, p.14.